

Hallucinogenic drugs are substances that distort the perception of objective reality. The most well-known hallucinogens include phencyclidine, otherwise known as PCP, angel dust, or loveboat; lysergic acid diethylamide, commonly known as LSD or acid; mescaline and peyote; and psilocybin, or "magic" mushrooms. Under the influence of hallucinogens, the senses of direction, distance, and time become disoriented. These drugs can produce unpredictable, erratic, and violent behavior in users that sometimes leads to serious injuries and death. Drownings, burns, falls, and automobile crashes have also been reported. In 1993, hallucinogens were associated with almost 10,000 hospital emergency room visits and approximately 200 deaths.

**People under the influence of hallucinogens frequently cause themselves physical harm or exhibit violent behavior toward others.**

*Jimson weed, also known as angel's trumpet, can cause serious illness or even death.*

● **Using hallucinogens can affect learning and memory.**

## What are the **physical risks** associated with using hallucinogens?

- ✦ increased heart rate and blood pressure
- ☆ sleeplessness and tremors
- \* lack of muscular coordination
- \* sparse, mangled, and incoherent speech
- ★ decreased awareness of touch and pain that can result in self-inflicted injuries
- ✂ convulsions
- ✦ coma
- ☞ heart and lung failure

## What are the **psychological risks** associated with using hallucinogens?

- ☎ a sense of distance and estrangement
- \* depression, anxiety, and paranoia
- ◆ violent behavior
- ★ confusion, suspicion, and loss of control
- flashbacks
- ✦ behavior similar to schizophrenic psychosis
- ★ catatonic syndrome whereby the user becomes mute, lethargic, disoriented, and makes meaningless repetitive movements

Everyone reacts differently to hallucinogens—there's no way to predict if you can avoid a "bad trip."

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**Don't get doped into thinking that taking hallucinogens will lead you to self-discovery.**